

RESPONSES BASED ON GROUP DISCUSSIONS DURING OUTREACH

QUESTION 1: WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LEWIS COUNTY?

Destination Packwood

- Slower pace
- Isolation
- Beauty
- Being away from the city (including Centralia and Chehalis)
- Not many places like Packwood – it's beautiful and getting ready to grow (Summit County, Colorado)
- Proximity to mountains
- Surrounded by federal lands - Growth potential limited by forest

Packwood Senior Center

- Country
- Small towns
- Need sewers in main part of town
- Hiking, spent a lot of time hiking on local trails
- Small communities (easier to make friends)
- Sense of community
- Beauty
- Weather
- Small/quaint
- No stop lights
- Library
- Destination Packwood
- Historical society (Open Thursday through Sunday in the summer)
- Fair amount of construction occurring (some jobs)

Winlock Lions

- Smaller community
- Hiking, outdoors
- Country
- History, small historic communities
- Volunteer efforts make a difference
- Friendly people
- Schools

Winlock Senior Center

- Sports fields for youth in Centralia/Chehalis

- People/community
- Train sounds
- Lack of traffic
- Cool old buildings
- Lakes, open space
- Friendly people
- Churches help out. Generous community. Though it is low-income, there is no reason for anyone to go hungry
- Like details in community (plaques and eggs)

Morton High School

- Close knit-community
- People support each other/local businesses
- Beautiful
- Lakes
- Morton safer than other cities
- Good relationships
- Know more people
- Safety
- Wildlife
- Sports
- Swimming at the river
- Hiking
- Friendly

Centralia College

- Festivals in small towns
- Cool activities/events (trout fishing at Borst Park)
- Sense of community
- Rivers
- Hiking
- White Pass
- Exploring nature
- Going to movies
- Fourth of July in PeEll
- Lots of land/privacy
- Essentials and entertainment close, even though it is rural
- Location (Convenient to Amtrak, I-5), centrally located between Portland and Seattle
- Diversity of landscapes, cultures, small communities
- Cleaner air (than other places)
- Close knit
- Small communities
- Smaller population

- Centralia and Chehalis are small business supported/oriented
- Outdoors
- Restoration of old buildings
- Laid back fun vibe in downtown Centralia
- Natural resources (good hunting)
- Friendly people
- Community beautification
- Pretty drive to school
- Centralia/Chehalis - Nice step up in size from smaller towns

Olympia Master Builders

- Not Thurston County
- Location
- Good people
- Logistically next place for development
- Conservative
- Cooperative (between agencies)
- Short commute time
- Better permitting environment/good permitting
- Rural lands
- Charm – area hasn't changed
- Downtowns nicely done

Adna Grange

- Taxes are pretty low
- They leave you be on the land
- Beautiful
- Rural lands are an asset
- Conservative county
- Good road maintenance
- Good sheriff's department
- Good baseball

Port of Chehalis

- Like living here
- Trees and mountains
- In the middle of everything from recreation standpoint (Mount Rainier and the coast, lakes, Portland and Seattle)
- Community supports itself (invests in self and spearheads volunteer projects)
- Best of both worlds rural, but between Seattle and Portland
- Strong community. Don't depend on others. Take care of ourselves

Morton Chamber of Commerce

- Quiet
- Rural living
- Everything
- Stars
- Community
- Good hospital
- Good school
- No traffic
- No stoplights
- Good Ford dealer
- Good community theater
- Community clubs work together
- Home town newspaper
- Good county commissioners/governments work together.
- Functioning mills, and they help community. Hampton in particular is very helpful.
- Slower pace
- High quality of people and business people.
- Good mechanic

Onalaska Alliance

- Not Seattle
- Know everybody
- Have friends, family
- Feels safe
- "No one knows where we are"
- Fewer rules, regulations
- Need something just call neighbors, friends
- Natural resource base, agrarian
- Bunch of old-timers but we welcome new blood
- Schools (from school district all located in the same location (can have all school assemblies, celebrations together)
- Good place to grow up, natural
- Big cities not far
- Like what has been going on around Carlisle Lake
- Self-reliant
- Cooperation
- Make things happen at the grassroots
- Near recreational opportunities, hiking, Riffe, Swofford
- Lack of traffic
- Safe
- Easy to get to ocean, Mount Rainier

- Apple harvest
- Quiet
- Can hear birds
- Can see stars
- Less people/madness
- Like land, trees, and open space

Vader City Council

- Fishing destination
- Cowlitz River
- Parks and recreation, last area between Portland and Seattle for nature, state parks
- Trails
- Nice people at County and Public Utilities District
- Like Vader being little City in the woods
- Like forest
- Like quiet
- Safety
- In middle of nature, cities
- Perfect location in the woods, while proximate to I-5

PeEll City Council

- Close knit
- On main highway
- Rural but accessible to cities
- Scenery, being in a rural area
- Cheap
- Friendly
- Highway and route to ocean brings active citizens community
- Active citizens community
- School is an asset, good school
- Community supports school, proud of local sports

QUESTION 2: WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

Destination Packwood

- People don't quite understand East Lewis County
- Would like a UGA
- More services and business types - a bakery, floral/gift shop
- Would like a lifestyle that we can bring kids home to
- More jobs. Packwood lost 360 jobs lost in 1996
- Want sewer
- Want superior internet (High Valley and Timberline have no 4G)
- Want airport

- Rivers creating havoc - something needs to be done
- Want professional base in Packwood (used to have pharmacy, doctor, elementary school, and more forest service jobs)
- Would like county to understand how important Packwood is
- Need sewer - town needs it and young people who will move in need it
- Would like flashing elk signs
- Would like slower speeds through town
- Want to see repaved gutters through town
- Want to see less dependence on tourism for the health of the community's economy

Packwood Senior Lunch

- More restaurants. Packwood is a tourist town with only two restaurants and it is hard to handle the visitors
- Would like more goods and services nearby. The nearest medical/dental is in Randle and major shopping is a 75-mile drive (to Puyallup, Yakima, or Chehalis). The closest bank and pharmacy is in Morton (34 miles away)
- River causes problems. Takes some homes in outlying areas
- Transit is available, but sometimes it is too expensive for people that need to ride

Winlock Lions

- Would like more jobs
- More support to smaller communities
- Would like to have crime go down - be tougher on crime
- Additional beautification
- Improved infrastructure (roads without potholes, sidewalks, crosswalks)
- More activities for seniors and kids

Winlock Senior Center

- Would prefer having septic systems rather than centralized wastewater treatment
- Would like less train traffic
- More emphasis on the quality of life in the small towns
- Would like to be a thriving historic small town
- More businesses
- More affordable business space - utility cost makes space unaffordable
- Lower utility costs in Winlock - unaffordable for young folks/elderly
- Would like more accessible spaces - buildings/businesses/open spaces are grandfathered to not be accessible under the ADA
- Want more businesses
- More activities. There is nothing to do and people fill void with drugs

Morton High School

- Would like more activities
- Less tweakers that steal stuff

- Would like a recreational facility (like a YMCA)
- More fresh food options
- More local stores/farmers' market
- Would like better roads
- Need more rail guards on roadways
- Would like something to be done with abandoned/run-down houses
- Would like renovated downtown businesses
- More tourist activities
- Improved hotel options
- Enhanced Gus Backstrom Park
- Better aesthetics in town (flowers, trees, painting businesses)
- Better 7th Street
- More population diversity (right now only a community for old people to come retire)
- Would like to keep Twin Star Credit Union

Centralia College

- Would like more hunting places, and don't make people buy permits
- Improve Winlock (too much turnover in stores, community is broke, there are bad roads, and there has been deficiencies in the government)
- Would like thriving small towns
- Fuller buildings in communities
- Better paying jobs (only minimum wage jobs right now)
- More jobs opportunities
- Reduced utility and water costs
- Easier access to mental health care
- More public transportation
- Would like some alternative to deal with the commute north
- Would like better long-term support of non-profit programs/educational programs/programs for students
- Better education
- Would like to deal with the drug issue - would address a number of fundamental problems
- "Good place to grow up but get stuck here"
- Internet service stinks
- Would like more opportunity - going to leave area and follow a job
- Don't feel safe at night, particularly in Centralia/Chehalis
- More arts
- More things to do
- More community opportunities/events
- Less chlorine in the water in Centralia
- More advertisement of current activities and events in communities
- Would like to stop allowing new construction in floodplains
- Would like to improve the quality of runoff
- Make Centralia College a university

- Would like bus service to the Veteran's museum
- More lighting/roadway markings on rural roads (particularly to Onalaska) - hard to see in dark and rain
- Would like to see Schaefer Park get more use
- Would like to see lakes be less gross (Swofford Pond, Mayfield Lake)
- Would like better roads (particularly National)

Olympia Master Builders

- Would like more jobs
- More vocational training
- Would like it to be easier to find employees
- Would like to see more lands opened for business
- Would like to flood-proof Lewis County
- Have permitting be easier. It has improved but there are still some silly permitting things that could be easier with the use of electronics
- Would like more areas to grow for both commercial and residential
- Less big box stores. Big box stores force mom and pops out of business
- Additional development opportunities (at I-5 and US 12, Winlock area, and Rush Road)

Adna Grange

- Used to be quiet
- Would like less people
- Want businesses but no more people
- Would be good to have Costco closer
- Would change Group B community well tax - \$65 a year
- Flooding
- Don't like Adna schools raising taxes
- Don't like chip sealed roads
- Boistfort water is expensive - \$70 base rate
- Want less Scotch Broom and Tansy Ragwort - County used to cite people

Port of Chehalis

- Would like sustainable family-wage jobs
- Want to change the perception/reality that if you want to be/do something, you have to leave
- Need to break cycle of despair, need attitude of hope
- Wish kids didn't have to leave to find work
- Want it easier for people who stay in Lewis County to stay in a middle class environment
- Change perception of county (including flooding, lack of amenities, etc.)
- Improve connection between schools, college, ports, and industry

Morton Chamber of Commerce

- Would like more businesses, shopping, jobs
- More law enforcement presence in East Lewis County

- Intersection of Main and US 7 bad, as well as Intersection of US 12 and US 7
- Would like reduced speeds at Main and 7th
- Improved intersection of US 7 and 12
- Perhaps a 45 mile speed limit along US 12 to allow people to turn onto the road easier
- More clarity that people don't need to stop at Main along US 7
- Improved bridge along SR 508
- Would like cleaned up unsightly lots on the periphery of Morton
- More rental housing/homes for sale
- Could use lower income apartments
- Parking shortage in town
- Would like faster internet - Wave is good
- Animal shelter does not serve E. Lewis County. No veterinarian in area and pet ministry could use backup help from County in spaying and neutering
- Would like the court system to stay
- Would like the Bob Lyle building to have some County services

Onalaska Alliance

- Would like to be more than just a retirement community
- Want strong schools, strong tax base
- Have to build tax base
- Don't want to sprawl out
- We have lifestyle that we want, but we have some economic challenges
- Would like jobs that fit community
- Would like jobs that kids come back to
- Would like growth that provides living wage jobs
- Need to make a living
- Commercial growth essential
- Need a certain amount of churn in population and business, a certain amount of growth is essential
- Would like to be at edge of agricultural change (agricultural operations are changing, more women, smaller farms, more urban)
- Want to see timber and agricultural uses work in partnership
- Like the European model, where the community has a defined edge and agricultural uses are just outside built area

Vader City Council

- Love to see school in area again (hated to see it go down, hurt City in every direction)
- More stuff for kids
- Closer recreational parks (state parks, county parks)
- Walking trails, biking trails
- Improve Lacamas bridge
- Train stop back in Vader
- Public transportation

PeEll City Council

- Ignored, kind of disconnected from the rest of County, community is the western outpost
- Not much of a voice
- Reconnect community to larger County, include in overall plan
- More revenue from the County for the town – Town depends on active citizens to help out employees
- More businesses in town
- Fill vacant buildings
- Add a library (closest library is in Chehalis or Raymond). Community is not in the library district and checking out books costs \$89 a year
- Have community center to get kids off street
- Focus more on County off I-5
- More focus on infrastructure such as internet
- More coordination between street paving and utility projects

QUESTION 3: WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR LEWIS COUNTY IN THE FUTURE?

Destination Packwood

- Want to be unique
- Don't need to be large to be great
- Need infrastructure
- Want people to live here and have a decent lifestyle
- Want to have services that people need and want
- More support to individuals/communities to bring in potential business. More solid support for small communities (help identify opportunities, steps to take, and road blocks)
- Would like to direct change (area will have tourism, but want year round jobs. Small and medium employers are okay)
- Want professional base in Packwood
- Would like less fluctuation in business environment (businesses currently come and go in waves)
- Want a functioning community
- Want adequate water, sewer and transportation (essential services for people that live here and want to live here)
- Want to see a healthy Packwood that benefits the entire County
- Want to see little victories
- Want to have US 12 travel through town (not be moved to another location)

Packwood Senior Lunch

- Want to enjoy what we enjoy
- Don't tell anybody about the quality of living here
- Want the town to be like the mill heyday of 20 years ago (more businesses/activities)
- More employment opportunities

- More family wage jobs
- Would like to be able to keep youth here
- Lots of retirees and vacationers. Would like a more diverse population
- Would like a car wash, laundromat
- Want more services for homeless/low-income (lots of homeless especially in the summer)
- Would like Packwood to be better tied to existing services
- Hard for limited mobility seniors to get to appointments (Catholic Community Services will give ride for people going outside of Lewis County, but not for someone traveling from Packwood to Morton)
- Would like a care facility for seniors/more senior housing
- Would like transportation to provide a link between Packwood and Yakima (sometimes people end up in Packwood thinking that they can get to Yakima)
- Would like more warnings about elk (there are a lot of elk)

Winlock Lions

- Want more historic interpretive opportunities
- Want more jobs
- Would like development of the Benaroya site
- Want more developable land in the rural areas (5 acre sites)
- Improved vitality in Winlock (especially in downtown)
- Want healthy schools
- Less train traffic
- Improved pedestrian crossings across the train tracks (skywalks)
- Want public transportation in Winlock/Vader
- Would like enhanced entrances to the cities as part of infrastructure projects (Highway 603)

Winlock Senior Lunch

- Would like a bus in Winlock
- Want a train stop in Winlock
- Want thriving small towns
- More businesses
- More opportunities for teens
- Something to do in the evenings
- Want Winco/Costco
- Improved quality of schools
- Would like a trade school
- Would like to maintain the sense of community
- Want to maintain the small communities like Winlock as places that show what communities used to be like

Morton High School

- Still want to be rednecks
- Want nature to continue to be a key part of the character of the area

- No sprawl
- Want population growth, while keeping the small town feel
- Would like to keep tourists in town
- Want more growth in Morton (to fill classrooms and have full class sizes/more electives)
- Want additional businesses (bakery, pet café, marijuana, laundromat, outdoor sport rental shop with dirt bikes, quads, skis, etc.)
- Would like a farmers' market
- Want more free events like outdoor movies
- Fix skate ramps
- More nice sit down restaurants
- More job training programs (New Market Skills Center is far away. Travel to the Pierce County skills center has to cross the "divide")
- Would like improved cell phone service
- Want more stuff for young families (little incentive for middle age people to live here)

Centralia College

- Would like an Improved education system (i.e. include classes beyond just what students need and focus more on students that are doing well, rather than students that are underperforming)
- More nursing/retirement homes (existing homes are expensive, and having more would help bring the cost down). Consider having more family homes and starting an adopt-a-grandma program
- More small businesses/stores
- Want to be a model for the state in conservation and sustainability (land management, energy, etc.)
- Want better paying jobs
- Local production of food, and labeling of local food
- Want to use the resources that we have more efficiently. Want to improve what we have
- Want to be a safe place to live
- Have more youth programs to keep kids occupied/off streets
- Medical and mental health treatment is an issue
- Want more job opportunities
- Would like more things to do. We only hang out at Rock and Bowl and Walmart
- Want ATVs at parks and trails
- Would like it to be more bike friendly
- Keep population lower
- Have more community events to promote agriculture
- Have more community-based projects in schools
- Want garbage cans along the Willapa Hills Trail, particularly at access points to the rivers along the trail
- Want more voice in laws passed for the state

Olympia Master Builders

- I-5 will dictate growth

- Most development will occur within 15 minutes of I-5. Retired people will continue to locate off the road
- Want to flood-proof Lewis County (flood is a time bomb and scares people about building and buying)
- Want to make rural lands (off I-5) appealing
- Would like industry and jobs
- Want trained workers
- Need affordable housing
- Want to have development sites ready
- Want better wages. Laborers drive the economy and currently don't make squat
- Would like to have livable wages
- Would like to potentially reduce building permit fees (fees price people out of market)
- Want more jobs
- Would like improved customer service. Applicants should feel like you are on their side and process should be about what you can do and not what you can't do. Have people feel like you are helping
- Need more proactivity with legislature. Lobbyists get stuff done

Adna Grange

- Maintain the county we have
- We have no problem with industry, we have a problem with development
- Have an obligation to preserve land for future generations
- Would like flood control - dredge the Chehalis
- Would like a Costco
- Want decent restaurants (steak house, italian, Cracker Barrel). No more Mexican or burger joints
- Would like something to be done about abandoned and vacant buildings
- Help Winlock's water system/development
- Would like to improve the new I-5 off ramps
- Enforce trash and litter laws
- Want to diversify the employment base (largest employer around is the state)
- Keep urban sprawl down - we used to live in Roy

Port of Chehalis

- Make community more livable
- Grow with balance. Maintain the character of the area as growth occurs

Morton Chamber of Commerce

- Every empty building filled and painted
- More employment, and not necessarily big employers
- More housing, better housing stock - currently limited single-family and other housing options
- Stay rural/small
- Work together more as East Lewis County

- Improve information sharing
- Increase public transportation (more runs than we currently have)
- A countywide sewer system (Packwood and Randle)
- Desire for jobs, community vitality
- Increased housing stock
- Reasons to keep kids here

Onalaska Alliance

- Preserve small town feel
- Would like to continue knowing neighbors
- Interested in supporting agritourism
- Want high speed internet
- Would like allowed uses like bed and breakfasts nearby
- Want development to install needed improvements
- Need a certain amount of industry
- Develop IPAT
- Straighten out SR 508
- Fix 508
- Add shoulder on SR 508 outside of town
- Add sidewalks on SR 508 through town
- Change speed limit on west end of town (both into town and going out of town)
- Fix bridge on SR 508 east of town
- Fix SR 508 intersection at Carlisle (busy corner, sun limits visibility early and late in the day)

Vader City Council

- Managed growth
- Vader has a lot of infill land and a lot of potential for commercial growth
- Would be nice to have a doctor
- Would be nice to have an auto store (about half way between Chehalis and Longview – split trips)
- Don't want I-5 too urban through the County
- Would like to keep woodlands

PeEll City Council

- Being a nice place for tourists
- Additional tourist infrastructure
- A trailhead (operated by the Town) that feature RV parking and signs made for the trail
- An increase in bike riders
- A splash park for kids
- More businesses and filled buildings on Main Street
- More showcasing of community history in downtown – Polish people, logging
- At least one new business per year
- Another restaurant